

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-001

CPYRGHT

Dodd Disputes Fulbright Blast At Intervention

Dirksen, Others
Defend U.S. Role in
Dominican Revolt

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Latin America Writer of The Star

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., today challenged the contention of Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., that the Johnson administration bungled its handling of the Dominican revolt.

He charged that Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, seems to have shut out of his mind all facts which fail to harmonize with the thesis that the rebels were right and the administration was wrong.

Dodd, in a speech prepared for delivery on the Senate floor, said it seemed to him that Fulbright suffers from "an indiscriminating infatuation with revolutions of all kinds—national, democratic or Communist."

Dodd's speech, interpreted as reflecting the administration's viewpoint, aligned him with Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Sen. George A. Smathers, D-Fla.; Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., the assistant Senate Democratic leader, and Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., all of whom were critical of Fulbright's conclusions.

Clark Backs Fulbright

Sen. Joseph S. Clark, D-Pa., however, found Fulbright's views "overdue, sound and wise" and said he was in complete accord.

The only reaction so far from the White House came from Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers who said, "I have talked to a number of officials in government, career and otherwise, who simply do not believe the senator's conclusions are justified."

Fulbright said that the danger to American lives was "more a pretext than a reason for the massive U.S. intervention."

Degree of Truth Questioned

Fulbright also charged that Johnson's decision to intervene was based on false or inaccurate information from the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo; that it worked serious damage to our image in Latin America, and that the administration was less than truthful in announcing dispatch of the Marines to save American lives.

Dodd said, "I find it difficult to escape the impression that this sweeping condemnation of administration policy is organically related to the documentation previously published by the Foreign Relations Committee under the caption 'Background Information Relating to the Dominican Republic.'"

Dodd repeated a previous charge that the documentation and supporting chronology, culled mainly from three Eastern newspapers critical of administration policy, were "heavily slanted against the administration by the simple process of editorial selection."

OAS Report Cited

He said he failed to understand how Fulbright could have ignored the report of the five Organization of American States ambassadors, who reported from Santo Domingo in the early stages of the revolt that anarchy reigned there with the threat that the rebel movement could rapidly be converted to a Communist insurrection.

Replying to Fulbright's statement that the administration has not proven its assertion of Communist control, Dodd said, "The senator seems to demand a degree of mathematical proof which is a virtual impossibility in the complex realm of politics. It would, for example, have been impossible to prove, by the rigorous standards he suggests, that Fidel Castro was a Communist" even a year after he came to power.

When Dodd made his original complaint about the documents used by the committee as a background for its hearings, Fulbright said Dodd had attended only one of a series of the committee's hearings and had not read the transcript.

"A Textbook Operation"

"The Dominican revolt," Dodd said, "was characterized by the highest degree of precision and professionalism. It was, if anything, a textbook operation in the seizure of political power which could only have been conducted by trained professional

al revolutionaries."

It was not only Ambassador W. Tapley Bennett who urged American intervention, Dodd said. The recommendation to Johnson represented the unanimous judgment of the entire team of advisers in the Dominican Republic, he said.

Dodd charged that Fulbright also ignored the testimony of John Bartlow Martin, who went to Santo Domingo on special assignment for Johnson shortly after the fighting erupted. He said Martin went to the scene convinced the United States was doing the wrong thing and changed his mind within 48 hours when he realized the Communists were in complete control or at least exercised an exceedingly dangerous degree of control.

Dodd listed 14 detailed events which convinced the administration the Communists were in control and that delay would result in another Cuba. And he said the United States knew much more which cannot be publicly documented now.

"Perhaps the chief reason why the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and I find it so difficult to understand each other is the fact that, while he regards the Communists as revolutionaries, I regard them as counter-revolutionaries," Dodd said.

He declared Fulbright's attitude is shared by a number of people who consider themselves liberals and who are not pro-Communists. But he said they are so bemused by the Communists' pretention to social revolution that they permit their tolerance of communism to blind them to the very real danger it poses to the survival of freedom.

The U.S. intervention, Dodd concluded, terminated senseless killing in the Dominican Republic and gave the OAS time to assume responsibility. The Dominican people, he said, have clearly demonstrated their support of the compromise offered by the OAS.

Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., said he endorsed what Fulbright said "both in its generalities and in its specifics."

From U.S. activities in the Dominican Republic, Morse said, it is obvious that the government does not understand the purposes of the Alliance for Progress. The Alliance, Morse said, was devised not to suppress the demand for change in

STATINTL

to aid and direct it in certain paths.

In a speech prepared for Senate delivery, Morse, chairman of the Foreign Relations subcommittee on Latin America, said:

"Many of these Latin American oligarchies and would-be military dictators are using the American military to stay in power. They count on its gullibility, and on our overriding obsession with communism, to hold back the tide that would otherwise sweep them away."

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00145R000200320013-4

CPYRGHT